

DATELINE: NEW YORK NO. 121
ALICE RICHMAN SCHACHNER

OCTOBER 20, 1976

"FUTURE FACTS:" LOOKING TOWARD THE YEAR
TWO THOUSAND

(VOICED PIECE & INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: DATELINE: NEW YORK -- PICTURES IN SOUND OF PEOPLE, PLACES
AND EVENTS IN AMERICA'S METROPOLIS - AND BROUGHT TO YOU
BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA EACH WEEK (AT THIS TIME).

IN TODAY'S RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD, NEW TECHNOLOGICAL
DEVELOPMENT FAIRLY INUNDATES US. THE PACE OF CHANGE IS
SO BRISK THAT MANY OF US CAN REMEMBER WHEN THE COMMON
PLACE THING OF TODAY WAS ONCE ONLY A MIRACLE OF SOME
DISTANT FUTURE. BUT, IN TRUTH, THERE STILL ARE SOME
AMAZING THINGS TO COME, IF YOU LISTEN TO THOSE WHO
KEEP THEIR EYES ON THE FUTURE. IN NEW YORK, REPORTER
ALICE RICHMAN SOUGHT OUT SUCH A PERSON: STEPHEN ROSEN,
RESEARCH SCIENTIST, MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT AND AUTHOR
OF THE BOOK CALLED "FUTURE FACTS." HERE, WITH HER
REPORT, IS -----.

NARR: HOW CAN THERE BE A "FUTURE FACT?" AFTER ALL, A FACT
EXISTS A FUTURE DOES NOT. STEPHEN ROSEN OFFERS THIS
EXPLANATION: A "FUTURE FACT" IS A PRODUCT, SERVICE
OR PROCESS THAT'S LIKELY TO IMPROVE OUR LIVES ONCE
IT'S ACCEPTED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC. SOME OF THE FACTS
HE HAS WRITTEN ABOUT WILL BE REALIZED WITHIN A YEAR.
OTHERS MAY BE ONE HUNDRED YEARS AWAY. BUT ROSEN
BELIEVES THEY ARE ALL FACTS WITH A FUTURE.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- ROSEN

"HOW ABOUT A CURE FOR THE COMMON COLD? IT'S ON THE DRAWING BOARD. HOW ABOUT A WAY OF HARNESSING OFF-SHORE WINDS IN THE OCEANS BY USING FLOATING WINDMILLS TO POWER ELECTRICAL GENERATORS TO SUPPLY ELECTRICAL ENERGY TO COASTAL CITIES? HOW ABOUT A TINY BEVERAGE CONTAINER - A SMALL CAN OF SODA - THAT INSTANTLY CHILLS THE CONTENTS AS SOON AS YOU PULL THE TOP OFF? HOW ABOUT AN ABILITY TO REGENERATE LOST BODY PARTS? HOW ABOUT A SUBWAY TRIP FROM NEW YORK TO LOS ANGELES IN TWENTY-ONE MINUTES."

NARR: SOME OF THESE IDEAS MAY SEEM INCREDIBLE BUT THEY ALL REST ON SOLID SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATIONS. THE CITIES OF NEW YORK AND LOS ANGELES ARE ALMOST FIVE THOUSAND KILOMETERS APART. BUT THE TECHNOLOGY NOW EXISTS TO TUNNEL GREAT DISTANCES UNDERGROUND WITH CONSIDERABLE EFFICIENCY. BUT SUCH A PROJECT WOULD BE ENORMOUSLY EXPENSIVE AND MR. ROSEN FEELS THAT IT IS AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED YEARS AWAY.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- ROSEN

"BUT SUPPOSE THEN WITH THIS TECHNOLOGY WE HAVE AT OUR DISPOSAL FUNDS ARE MADE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH A PROJECT. AND THE PROJECT IS ON THE DRAWING BOARDS, IT'S NOT A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION. SUPPOSE THEN THIS AIRLESS TUNNEL WAS CREATED AND TRAINS THAT FLOAT ON MAGNETIC WAVES OF ENERGY WOULD BE PLACED INSIDE THIS TUNNEL AND PERMITTED OR URGED TO MOVE BY THESE MAGNETIC WAVES AT THE SPEED OF SAY FIFTEEN OR TWENTY THOUSAND KILOMETERS PER HOUR VERY MUCH THE SAME WAY THAT A SURF BOARD RIDER IS CARRIED ALONG BY AN OCEAN WAVE. THERE YOU HAVE THE COAST-TO-COAST SUBWAY SYSTEM IN TWENTY-ONE MINUTES."

NARR: "FUTURE FACTS" FORECASTS THAT SOMEDAY ICEBERGS MAY BE TOWED FROM THE ANTARCTIC TO AFRICA, AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES TO BE MELTED DOWN FOR FRESH WATER. SOMEDAY THE ABILITY TO SPEAK A NEW LANGUAGE MAY BE ACQUIRED BY MEANS OF A CHEMICAL INJECTION. WASTF

NARR: KIND OF BOOK WILL SAVE BOTH NATURAL RESOURCES AND STORAGE
(CONT) SPACE.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- ROSEN

"HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A DISPOSABLE BOOK? A BOOK THAT WOULD BE ON A SINGLE PAGE, A PAGE THAT YOU COULD DISCARD AFTER YOU'VE READ IT OR PUT ON YOUR SHELF ALONG WITH OTHER SINGLE-PAGE BOOKS. A WHOLE LIBRARY OF A THOUSAND OR TWO THOUSAND BOOKS MIGHT TAKE UP ONE OR TWO INCHES OF SHELF SPACE FOR EXAMPLE. AND THE WAY THAT SUCH A BOOK WOULD COME TO BE - AND THERE ARE PROTOTYPES OF IT ALREADY - IS BY MICROPRINTING WITH A VERY SOPHISTICATED READING UNIT THAT THE SINGLE PAGE GOES INTO."

NARR: MEDICAL SCIENCE IS MARCHING INTO THE FUTURE WITH THE VERY REAL POSSIBILITY OF AN ARTIFICIAL SUBSTITUTE FOR HUMAN BLOOD. NEW DRUGS WHICH WILL PREVENT CERTAIN FORMS OF CANCER ARE BEING DEVELOPED RIGHT NOW. PERHAPS THERE WILL EVEN BE A VACCINE AGAINST ALL TYPES OF CANCER. ARTIFICIAL LIMBS ARE NOT NEW AND HEART TRANSPLANTS ARE A REALITY. BUT SUPPOSE THE BODY WAS ABLE TO GROW ITS OWN REPLACEMENTS? SCIENTISTS KNOW THAT VERY YOUNG FROGS CAN REGROW A LOST BODY PART. BUT AT SOME POINT IN THE FROGS' DEVELOPMENT, THE REGENERATION PROCESS STOPS.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- ROSEN

"RECENT RESEARCH INDICATES THAT BY USING ELECTRICAL CURRENT THE REGENERATION OF LOST BODY PARTS CAN OCCUR IN FROGS. THIS LEADS ONE TO HOPE - INDEED TO EXPECT - THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO THIS WITH HUMANS SOMEDAY. BUT IMAGE, IF YOU WILL, THE POSSIBILITY OF REGENERATING A HUMAN HEART IN PLACE WHILE THE OLD HEART IS STILL FUNCTIONING, PERHAPS LIMPING ALONG. AND THEN SUBSTITUING THE NEWLY GROWN ORGAN FOR THE OLD MALFUNCTIONING ORGAN ONCE THE NEW ONE WAS FULLY COMPLETED."

NARR: THESE ARE "FUTURE FACTS." SOME OF THEM MAY SEEM MORE LIKE FANTASY. BUT STEPHEN ROSEN IS A SCIENTIST. TO HIM, THE FACTS OF THE FUTURE ARE JUST A MATTER OF TIME.

ANNCR: THIS HAS BEEN DATELINE, STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE AND PLACES IN THE UNITED STATES. TODAY, YOU HEARD DATELINE: NEW YORK CITY AND AUTHOR STEPHEN ROSEN'S LOOK AT THE FACTS OF THE FUTURE. NEXT WEEK (AT THIS TIME) ANOTHER DATELINE. THIS IS -----.

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